

SB 207 -- DAMAGE CLAIMS ON RENTAL VEHICLES

SPONSOR: Mathewson (Byrd)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Transportation and Motor Vehicles by a vote of 20 to 0.

This bill requires that all damage claims by a rental company must be reasonably and rationally related to the actual loss incurred. Rental companies must not assert a claim for damages which exceeds: (1) the actual cash value of the vehicle less any proceeds from the disposal of the vehicle or (2) the actual cost to repair the vehicle including all discounts or price reductions, whichever is less. A renter will be presumed to have no liability for loss due to theft if an authorized driver has possession of the key or establishes the key was not in the ignition and the authorized driver promptly files a police report on the theft. The bill also adds repair facilities to the type of entities which may make estimates for damage claims.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill allows for a fairer business practice and allows damaged vehicles to be repaired more quickly and probably more cheaply.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Mathewson.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst